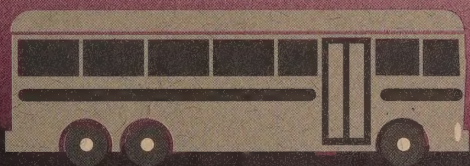


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planning for the future

STANISLAUS  
AREA  
ASSOCIATION  
OF  
GOVERNMENTS





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## Stanislaus Area Association of Governments

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 Modesto, California 95354  
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 E-mail: [saag@sonnet.com](mailto:saag@sonnet.com)  
 Web site: <http://www.sonnet.com/usr/saag>

## MISSION STATEMENT

**T**o bring local government and the community together to solve regional problems, particularly in transportation.

This is done by providing timely information, coordinating planning activities, distributing funds, and setting priorities. By working together and maintaining a "can do" attitude, we improve the quality of life for all.

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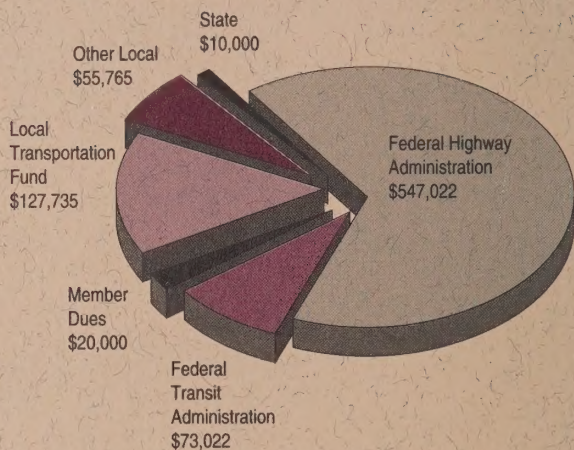
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



# SAAG REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

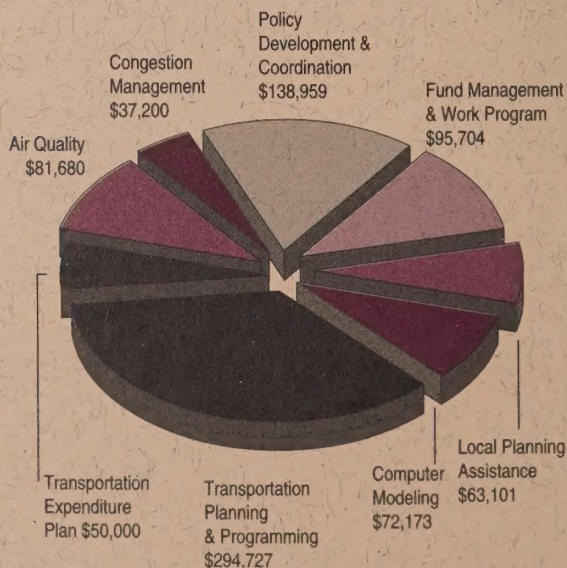
## Revenues (FY 96-97)

**Total \$833,544**



## Expenditures (FY96-97)

**Total \$833,544**





**Greetings!** This brochure is intended for elected officials, local businesses, government staff people, and members of the general public—anyone who cares about our future as a community. We hope you find it a helpful introduction to the world of regional planning.

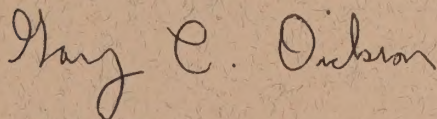
Regional planning, like regional problems, can be complex. The most difficult problems of our society do not stop at city or county boundaries. Crime, education, growth, transportation, the environment, workforce and economic development — our local communities struggle with these issues. Solving these problems requires cooperation and a regional approach. The Stanislaus Area Association of Governments is directly involved in only a few of these issues, but the SAAG approach — local governments working together to solve common problems—is being used more and more.

As a regional planning agency, SAAG is a collection of local governments, rather than a new layer of government. Our strength lies in our diversity and our ability to think regionally, while still respecting the prerogatives of our cities and county. We are a forum for information sharing and problem solving.

I encourage you to review this brochure to find out more about what we do and how we can help resolve your important concerns. You may wish to contact us, attend a SAAG meeting, or review our Internet home page.

On behalf of the Policy Board of the Stanislaus Area Association of Governments, thank you for your interest in regional planning!

Sincerely,



Gary C. Dickson  
Executive Director



# A REGIONAL PLANNING EFFORT

The Stanislaus Area Association of Governments (SAAG) was created in 1971 as the **regional planning agency for Stanislaus County.**

SAAG is a “joint powers agency” created through a formal agreement signed by each of the local government members. SAAG is a forum where local governments come together to address common concerns.

SAAG is governed by a Policy Board composed of elected officials from the County of Stanislaus and cities of Ceres, Hughson, Modesto, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, Turlock, and Waterford. Assisting the voting members is an advisory representative from Caltrans. Citizens, specific interest groups, and other agencies are active participants in the planning process through advisory committees and public workshops.

**Did You Know?**  
Stanislaus County  
has a large  
commuter  
population.  
Approximately  
25,000 commuters  
travel to jobs  
outside the County  
on a daily basis.



SAAG conducts regional planning and addresses public policy issues such as transportation, population growth, and the environment. These issues cross city boundaries and affect all of us. Planning for future transportation needs is the **primary role of SAAG.**

We also explore many other issues of concern to the

region. The SAAG Policy Board establishes policies, adopts plans, and secures and distributes transportation funds for regional programs.

SAAG serves the community through the following functions:

- Regional Transportation Planning Agency
- Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Local Transportation Authority
- Congestion Management Agency
- Technical Assistance Provider
- Abandoned Vehicle Service Authority
- Census Data Center

#### **Did You Know?**

**In 1995, there were  
166,000 employed  
persons in  
Stanislaus County.**

# SAAG'S ROLE



SAAG develops and prepares several important plans, programs, and special studies as described below. These help set regional priorities, which provide guidance for the use of federal and state funds for projects. Such **regional transportation** projects include improvements to local streets and roads, state highways, transit services, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and airports.

SAAG prepares its regional plans and policies through a “grassroots” planning process. This reflects the fundamental belief that community ideas and solutions are the most effective means to solve the region’s problems. The community is involved in the planning process through workshops, hearings, and SAAG’s Citizens Advisory Committee.

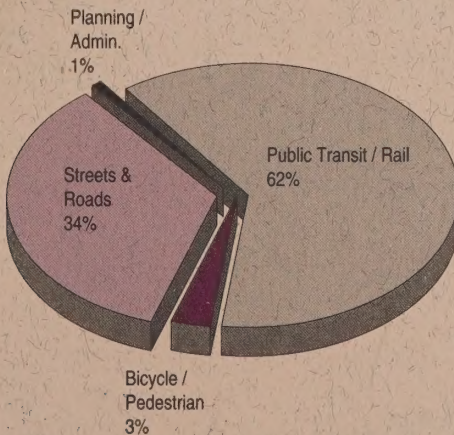
- **Overall Work Program and Budget**  
*sets forth the work of SAAG (annually)*
- **Stanislaus Area Regional Transportation Plan**  
*20 year blueprint for transportation; investment strategy for all known funding (updated every 2 years)*
- **Federal Transportation Improvement Program**  
*lists all projects with committed federal funds*
- **Air Quality Conformity Assessment**  
*measures air quality impacts of previous two documents*
- **Regional Transportation Improvement Program**  
*requests new state highway projects (every 2 years)*
- **Regional Aviation System Plan**  
*identifies improvements for air passenger, air cargo, and general aviation facilities*
- **Identification and Finding of Unmet Transit Needs**  
*identifies needs for Transportation Development Act Funds (annually)*
- **Regional Bicycle Transportation Master Plan**  
*identifies bicycle improvements, funding, and policies*
- **Special Studies as needed**



As the regional transportation planning agency, SAAG is responsible for managing over \$9.5 million annually in state **Transportation Development Act** (TDA) funds. TDA is funded by a portion of the statewide sales tax. This program is divided into the Local Transportation Fund and the (much smaller) State Transit Assistance Fund. These funds are used by our local governments for transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and street and road purposes, with transit having the highest priority. A small amount (currently less than 2%) of the Local Transportation Fund is used by SAAG for transportation planning and fund administration.

In Fiscal Year 1995-96, SAAG allocated \$9,039,355 of Local Transportation Funds and \$490,851 of State Transit Assistance. These funds were used by our local governments as follows:

public transit/rail	5,863,030
streets and roads	3,234,602
bicycle/pedestrian	319,414
planning/administration (SAAG)	<u>113,160</u>
Total	9,530,206

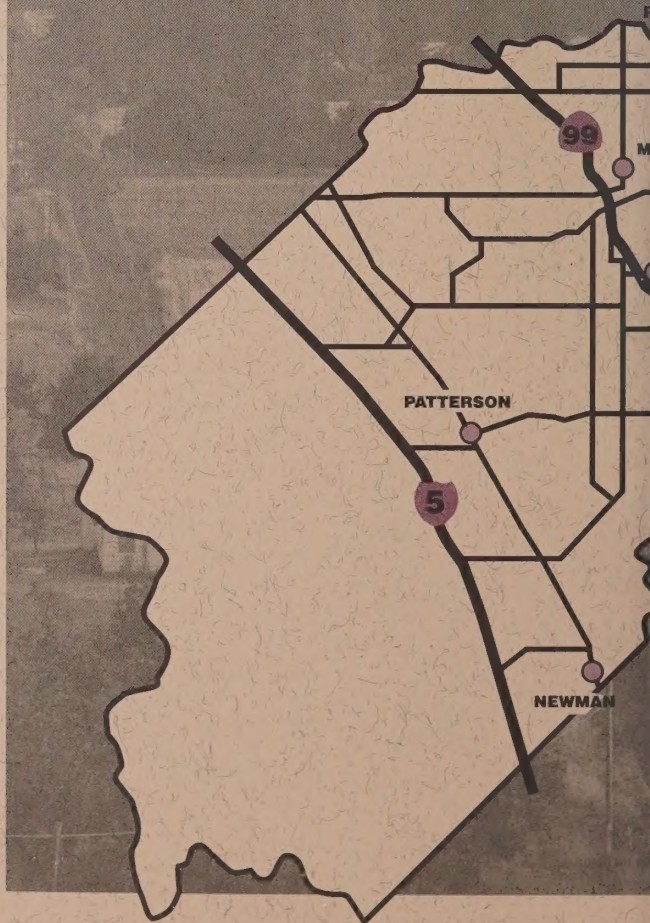




# TURLOCK riverbank newman

# MODESTO

S T A N I S L A





# S C O U N T Y



PATTERSON  
OAKDALE  
WATERFORD  
HUGHSON



In 1987, SAAG was designated by the county and its nine cities as the **Local Transportation Authority** for Stanislaus County. In this capacity, SAAG has the authority to receive and distribute funds which may be available for transportation improvements through a local transportation sales tax measure. To be implemented, such a measure would have to be placed on a future ballot by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors and approved by a 2/3 vote of the people.

Consistent with its designation as the Local Transportation Authority, SAAG has prepared (or is preparing) the following products:

### **Transportation Needs Survey Report**

- Summarized the results of 500 registered voters surveyed in Stanislaus County.
- Measured public support for various transportation improvements; and support for a potential 1/2 cent sales tax measure for transportation.

### **Transportation Expenditure Plan**

- A blueprint document that matches publicly supported transportation improvement projects with revenues generated by a potential sales tax measure.
- Identifies matching state and federal funds that could be leveraged with local sales tax revenues.

### **Did You Know?**

One study showed that every dollar invested in transportation results in \$2.50 in economic return.



The cities and county have designated SAAG as the Congestion Management Agency for Stanislaus County. In this role, SAAG develops and implements the countywide **Congestion Management Program (CMP)**.

This program is required by state law in all urban counties. The CMP was enacted as part of the statewide gasoline fuel tax increase approved by voters in June 1990.

## Did You Know?

In 1995, the median family income in Stanislaus County was \$39,800.

The CMP is a comprehensive program which takes a regional approach to traffic congestion, growth management, and air quality. Efforts to reduce traffic congestion and manage growth include maintaining traffic flow and coordinating land use planning among all local agencies. The program seeks to reduce the environmental

impact of automobile use by promoting alternatives such as rideshare programs, bicycle routes and pedestrian paths. The goal is to achieve a balanced transportation system for both people and goods.

SAAG works with its member jurisdictions to implement a successful Congestion Management Program. Only through such coordination can the goals of the Program be achieved.

As the Congestion Management Agency, SAAG monitors or prepares the following:

- Traffic Level of Service (LOS) Standards
- Transit Performance Standards
- Traffic Impacts of Land Use Decisions
- Capital Improvement Program



SAAG provides **technical assistance** and useful information to our member agencies; local businesses, and the general public.

SAAG also helps its member agencies respond to the requirements of state and federal laws, such as the Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991. For example, through our role as the Metropolitan Planning Organization, SAAG works with local governments to develop projects for federal ISTEA funding.

## Did You Know?

**Stanislaus County has 2,715 miles of maintained streets, roads, and highways.**

SAAG's technical assistance activities include:

- **Providing Census Data (see page 16)**
- **General Plan Assistance**
- **Regional Computer Traffic Modelling**
- **Transportation System Data Collection**
- **Conduit for State and Federal Information**

To increase its ability to assist its member agencies with their planning and programming activities, SAAG has expanded its computer capabilities by going "on-line" with the Internet. A home page has been developed and is online at <http://www.sonnet.com/usr/saag>.



In 1991, SAAG was designated by its member agencies as the local **Abandoned Vehicle Abatement** Service Authority for Stanislaus County. As such, SAAG is responsible for coordinating the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement activities of its local governments. The program's purpose is to remove abandoned and junk vehicles which present a threat to public safety.

**Did You Know?**  
 Stanislaus County's  
 population in 1995  
 was 415,300.  
 Projected  
 population in 2015  
 is 709,000.

The program is funded by a \$1 assessment added to vehicle registration fees. These funds are used exclusively for the purpose of abandoned vehicle abatement within Stanislaus County.

Each member agency has an Abandoned Vehicle Abatement (AVA) Program to abate vehicles within its jurisdiction. SAAG's role includes conducting meetings of the AVA Committee and distributing program funds on a quarterly basis.

The following documents are prepared by SAAG staff:

- Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Plan
- Service Authority Quarterly Progress Reports
- Fund Distribution Program

As the local **Census Data Center** for Stanislaus County, SAAG provides a variety of services to its member agencies and the general public. Numerous local data users contact the Center on a regular basis. Services offered at the Center include assisting users to determine their data needs and preparing made-to-order data packages for specific topics and geographic areas.

SAAG receives the latest U.S. Census products and other demographic, housing and economic information. A complete library of current and historical information is maintained at the Center and is available for public use. Materials at the library can be reviewed and/or copied and several publications are available for distribution.

In an effort to meet data requests more efficiently, SAAG is preparing a series of data profiles for distribution. The profiles are designed to meet the needs of the community. General demographic and transportation profiles for the county and cities have already been prepared and are available upon request. Profiles on population trends, families and children, seniors, race/ethnicity are being developed.

SAAG is also the designated "census liaison" for Stanislaus County and coordinates local census planning activities. Current activities include assisting the Census Bureau prepare for the 2000 Census.

The following information is available from SAAG:

- Census Data and Maps
- Current Population Estimates
- Population Projections
- Economic Data and Forecasts
- Employment Figures
- Transportation Statistics



The **Policy Board** has the ultimate decision making responsibility and authority for SAAG. It is composed of sixteen voting members and one advisory member (Caltrans). Voting members include five representatives from the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, three council representatives from the City of Modesto, and one council representative from each of the other eight cities in the County. The Policy Board maintains four standing committees to assist in its decision making.

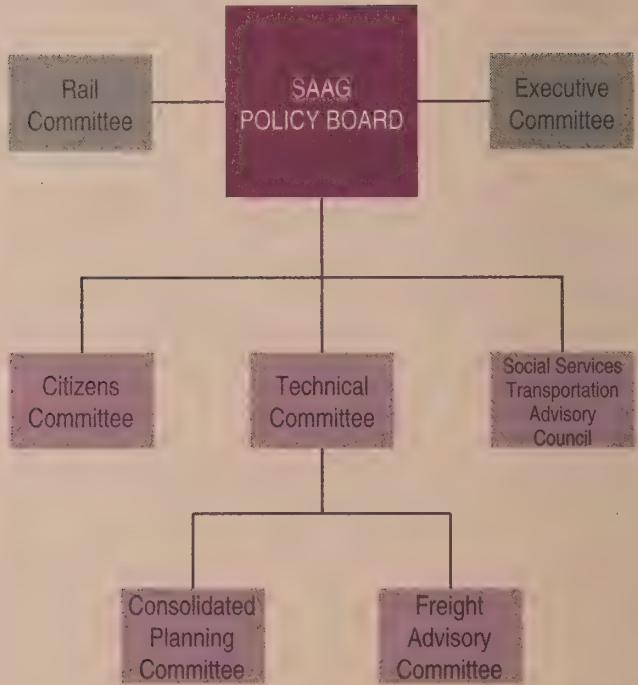
The **Executive Committee** makes administrative decisions for the SAAG Policy Board. It includes two County Supervisors, one representative from the City of Modesto, and two representatives from the other cities in the County.

The **Technical Committee** is composed of the chief administrative official of each member agency, and non-voting representatives from Caltrans and the Valley Air District. It advises both the Executive Committee and the SAAG Policy Board.

The **Citizens Committee** serves as an advisory committee to the SAAG Policy Board, representing the views of the public on a broad range of planning and policy issues. Its members are appointed by the Executive Committee and serve a four year term.

The **Social Services Transportation Advisory Council** advises SAAG regarding transit issues of concern to the elderly, persons with disabilities, and economically or transportation disadvantaged individuals. It participates in the annual unmet transit needs determination process and identifies any other major transit issues.

## Governing Structure



SAAG also maintains the following committees to study and make recommendations on other critical issues:

- The **Rail Committee** consists of elected officials and interested individuals, and advises the Policy Board on passenger rail issues.
- The **Freight Advisory Committee** is composed of representatives of transportation and industry, whose purpose is to study and make recommendations on issues related to trade and goods movement.
- The **Consolidated Planning Committee** advises the Technical Advisory Committee. It consists of local planning, public works and transit staffs, and representatives from Caltrans District 10 and the Air District.



**POLICY BOARD FY 1996-97**

**Chair:**

Paul Caruso ..... County of Stanislaus

**Vice-Chair:**

Kenni Friedman ..... City of Modesto

**Boardmembers:**

Blair Bradley ..... City of Ceres

Dennis Prouty ..... City of Hughson

Tim Fisher ..... City of Modesto

Mike Serpa ..... City of Modesto

James Silveira ..... City of Newman

Britta Skavdahl ..... City of Oakdale

Richard Dodds ..... City of Patterson

Rick Shewmake ..... City of Riverbank

Larry Rumbeck ..... City of Turlock

Pat Young ..... City of Waterford

Nick W. Blom ..... County of Stanislaus

Tom Mayfield ..... County of Stanislaus

Pat Paul ..... County of Stanislaus

Raymond C. Simon ..... County of Stanislaus

**Ex-Officio Member:**

Dinah N. Bortner ..... Caltrans District 10

**PROFESSIONAL STAFF**

Gary Dickson ..... Executive Director

Barbara Denlis ..... Senior Planner

Vince Angelino ..... Associate Planner

Bruce Baracco ..... Associate Planner

Tess Nguyen ..... Associate Planner

Chip Sellers ..... Associate Planner

Julia Southard ..... Associate Planner

Limeng Yu ..... Associate Planner

Robin Whitehead ..... Staff Services Analyst

CJ Johnson ..... Executive Secretary

Julie Pires ..... Administrative Clerk III

**MEETING DATES**

- Policy Board ..... 2nd Wednesday
- Executive Committee ..... when needed
- Technical Committee ..... last Wednesday
- Citizens Committee ..... last Wednesday
- Social Services Transportation
- Advisory Council ..... 1st Thursday
- Consolidated Planning
- Committee ..... next to last Wednesday
- Freight Advisory Committee ..... 4th Thursday, bimonthly
- Rail Committee ..... when needed

Please call (209) 558-7830 for meeting time and location.



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## Association of Governments

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